

TITLE VII—MISCELLANEOUS

Subtitle A—Automobile Safety and Information

SEC. 7101. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Reauthorization Act of 1998”.

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SEC. 7103. IMPROVING AIR BAG SAFETY.

(a) **RULEMAKING TO IMPROVE AIR BAGS.—**

(1) **NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING.**—Not later than September 1, 1998, the Secretary of Transportation shall issue a notice of proposed rulemaking to improve occupant protection for occupants of different sizes, belted and unbelted, under Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 208, while minimizing the risk to infants, children, and other occupants from injuries and deaths caused by air bags, by means that include advanced air bags.

(2) **FINAL RULE.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall complete the rulemaking required by this subsection by issuing, not later than September 1, 1999, a final rule with any provision the Secretary deems appropriate, consistent with paragraph (1) and the requirements of section 30111, title 49, United States Code. If the Secretary determines that the final rule cannot be completed by that date to meet the purposes of paragraph (1), the Secretary may extend the date for issuing the final rule to not later than March 1, 2000.

(3) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The final rule issued under this subsection shall become effective in phases as rapidly as practicable, beginning not earlier than September 1, 2002, and no sooner than 30 months after the date of the issuance of the final rule, but not later than September 1, 2003. The final rule shall become fully effective for all vehicles identified in section 30127(b), title 49, United States Code, that are manufactured on and after September 1, 2005. Should the phase-in of the final rule required by this paragraph commence on September 1, 2003, then in that event, and only in that event, the Secretary is authorized to make the final rule fully effective on September 1, 2006, for all vehicles that are manufactured on and after that date.

(4) **COORDINATION OF EFFECTIVE DATES.**—The requirements of S13 of Standard No. 208 shall remain in effect unless and until changed by the rule required by this subsection.

(5) CREDIT FOR EARLY COMPLIANCE.—To encourage early compliance, the Secretary is directed to include in the notice of proposed rulemaking required by paragraph (1) means by which manufacturers may earn credits for future compliance. Credits, on a one-vehicle for one-vehicle basis, may be earned for vehicles certified as being in full compliance under section 30115 of title 49, United States Code, with the rule required by paragraph (2) which are either—

(A) so certified in advance of the phase-in period; or

(B) in excess of the percentage requirements during the phase-in period.

(b) ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—Any government advisory committee, task force, or other entity involving air bags shall include representatives of consumer and safety organizations, insurers, manufacturers, and suppliers.

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SEC. 7105. ODOMETERS.

SEC. 7106. MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS.

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(e) STUDY.—The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shall conduct a study of the benefits to motor vehicle drivers of a regulation to require the installation in a motor vehicle of an interior device to release the trunk lid. Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administration shall submit a report on the results of the study to the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 7107. IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE FOR SHOW OR DISPLAY.

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(b) TRANSITION RULE.—A person who is the owner of a motor vehicle located in the United States on the date of enactment of this Act may seek an exemption under section 30114 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a) of this section, for a period of 6 months after the date regulations of the Secretary of Transportation promulgated in response to such amendment take effect.

Subtitle B—Railroads

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SEC. 7203. RAILROAD REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT FINANCING.

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(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING PROVISIONS.—

(1) * * *

(2) SAVINGS PROVISION.—A transaction entered into under the authority of title V of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 821 et seq.) before the date of enactment of this Act shall be administered until completion under its terms as if this Act were not enacted.

SEC. 7204. ALASKA RAILROAD.

(a) GRANTS.—The Secretary may make grants to the Alaska Railroad for capital rehabilitation of and improvements to its passenger services.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,250,000 for each of fiscal years 1998 through 2003.

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Subtitle C—Comprehensive One-Call Notification

SEC. 7301. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) unintentional damage to underground facilities during excavation is a significant cause of disruptions in telecommunications, water supply, electric power, and other vital public services, such as hospital and air traffic control operations, and is a leading cause of natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline accidents;

(2) excavation that is performed without prior notification to an underground facility operator or with inaccurate or untimely marking of such a facility prior to excavation can cause damage that results in fatalities, serious injuries, harm to the environment and disruption of vital services to the public; and

(3) protection of the public and the environment from the consequences of underground facility damage caused by excavations will be enhanced by a coordinated national effort to improve one-call notification programs in each State and the effectiveness and efficiency of one-call notification systems that operate under such programs.

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Subtitle D—Sportfishing and Boating Safety

SEC. 7401. SHORT TITLE; AMENDMENT OF 1950 ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This subtitle may be cited as the “Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act of 1998”.

(b) AMENDMENT OF 1950 ACT.—Whenever in this subtitle an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision of the 1950 Act, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Act entitled “An Act to provide that the United States shall aid the States in fish restoration and management projects, and for other purposes,” approved August 9, 1950 (16 U.S.C. 777 et seq.).

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SEC. 7404. BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this section is to provide funds to States for the development and maintenance of facilities for transient nontrailerable recreational vessels.

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(c) **PLAN.**—Within 6 months after submitting a survey to the Secretary under section 8(g) of the Act entitled “An Act to provide that the United States shall aid the States in fish restoration and management projects, and for other purposes,” approved August 9, 1950 (16 U.S.C. 777g(g)), as added by subsection (b) of this section, a State may develop and submit to the Secretary a plan for the construction, renovation, and maintenance of facilities for transient nontrailerable recreational vessels, and access to those facilities, to meet the needs of nontrailerable recreational vessels operating on navigable waters in the State.

(d) **GRANT PROGRAM.**—

(1) **MATCHING GRANTS.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall obligate amounts made available under section 4(b)(3)(B) of the Act entitled “An Act to provide that the United States shall aid the States in fish restoration and management projects, and for other purposes,” approved August 9, 1950, as amended by this Act, to make grants to any State to pay not more than 75 percent of the cost to a State of constructing, renovating, or maintaining facilities for transient nontrailerable recreational vessels.

(2) **PRIORITIES.**—In awarding grants under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to projects that—

(A) consist of the construction, renovation, or maintenance of facilities for transient nontrailerable recreational vessels in accordance with a plan submitted by a State under subsection (c);

(B) provide for public/private partnership efforts to develop, maintain, and operate facilities for transient nontrailerable recreational vessels; and

(C) propose innovative ways to increase the availability of facilities for transient nontrailerable recreational vessels.

(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this section, the term—

(1) “nontrailerable recreational vessel” means a recreational vessel 26 feet in length or longer—

(A) operated primarily for pleasure; or

(B) leased, rented, or chartered to another for the latter’s pleasure;

(2) “facilities for transient nontrailerable recreational vessels” includes mooring buoys, day-docks, navigational aids, seasonal slips, safe harbors, or similar structures located on navigable waters, that are available to the general public (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior) and designed for temporary use by nontrailerable recreational vessels; and

(3) “State” means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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